Volume 23
May 5, 1980

The TV-TS Tapestry

The TV-TS Tapestry is a publication of the Tiffany Club (a social and service organization for transvestites, transsexuals, and their friends and relatives). The subscription fee is $15.00 per year. For information, write or call: Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 426, North Hampton, NH 03862. 617-891-8022

MONTHLY REPORT April's party; the best one yet. We had 60 people here, a compatable and pleasant mixture of Tiffany members, Mayflower members, Hartford TVIC members, and friends. The hit of the party was Sheila's video camera. (To me however, the hit of the party was Brie's baked stuffed mushrooms. Mmm! Judging from the amount of time she spent camped over the mushrooms, I'd say Judy agrees with me.) Although the video was fun, as usual, the people made the party. Paula was more beautiful than ever, Ann and Lorina were delightful, Lambchops was a gentleman, and Pat was fun. Carol (Bubbles) was fun. Heck, everyone was fun. The party was fun. Good party.

Although the party was successful, the rest of the month could have been a little better. New memberships were down, and two guests failed to show, which made for two rather boring evenings. However, Betty, our Mary Kay cosmetic rep (thanks to Denise), did come. Unfortunately, Betty arrived at a time when everyone was planning to go partying, so we were unable to give her a fair showing. She was nice enough to grant us a revisit (see Coming Events).

To summerize the month, the party was super, but our growth was slow. Since growth is going to keep us going, guess we'll just have to try harder in May.

On to May.

LOVE, Merissa Sherrill Lynn

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COOPERATION AND A WAY TO GROW

by Merissa Sherrill Lynn

There are many energetic and effective groups working on behalf of cross-dressers and transsexuals. A few of these groups include Tiffany and Mayflower in Massachusetts, GGG/G and CHIC in California, Hartford TVIC and The XX (Twenty) Club in Connecticut, Crossroads of Michigan, ShangriLa in California and Florida, COPE in New Jersey, and the International Alliance in Pennsylvania. These organizations cater to different needs, ranging from strict heterosexual crossdressing, to homosexual swinging, to transsexualism.

Between our respective organizations, we can manage to service all members of the TV/TS community regardless of an individual's private needs or sexual orientation.

We all recognize that people crossdress for a multitude of reasons. Some dress for relaxation and fun, others for sex, some from a sense of compulsion or simply as a matter of identity. Too often in the past groups organized, specialized, catered to a specific element of the TV/TS community. These groups then closed their collective minds to the needs of all others. It is right a group should specialize to satisfy individual needs, but it is wrong to attack the validity of and to deny communications and support for other organizations. That breeds mistrust, needless competition, petty in fighting, fear and jealousy.

For too many years I have heard the fights between Neptune and Tri Sigma, The IAMF and Tri Sigma, between this group, that group, the other group; God it's stupid! Who is benifiting, and who is being hurt? We are all being hurt.

The Tiffany Club is in communication with and enthusiastically supports many other groups (particularly The GGG/G which is perhaps the most dynamic force for communication and cooperation in the nation). The result is that the cooperation works. (For example: with everyone working unselfishly together, the GGG/G was able to produce what is, to my knowledge anyway, the finest TV/TS directory ever published. Everyone benifits. In the Boston area Tiffany Club, which emphasizes friendship and peace of mind, supports Mayflower, which is swinging and bondage. The result is both groups are financially stable and growing, we are not in competition, and we are friends. Everybody benifits. Tiffany supports Outreach, which is primarily and educational institution. Outreach sponsors educational fund raising projects such as Fantasia Fair, while Tiffany supplies troops. The result is Outreach remains financially afloat while Tiffany members have an outstanding function to attend. EVERYBODY BENIFITS!

The key to this success is that Tiffany, Mayflower and Outreach recognize that as members of the TV/TS community we are together. Each of us serves a different purpose and rather than ignore or degrade or compete with one another, we help each other fulfill our individual purpose, for the benifit of all, and that cooperation works.

What works in Boston, can work elsewhere. The ultimate key to successful communication and cooperation is the evolution of an effective and representative international organization. This organization, perhaps called 'The International Alliance of TV/TS Organizations and Services', would have subscribers and a staff, but no membership, and would remain independant of and not dictate policy to any organization. Instead, the Alliance would act as the communicating factor and reporter for all organizations. To do this the Alliance would develop a tasteful quality magazine that would acknowledge and support all groups and report on their activities, and publish articles and news items of interest. The income would be from traditional sources, subscriptions, ads, counter sales, personals, etc., but the Alliance would first and foremost <u>be dedicated to the service of the entire TV/TS community</u>.

The machinery for such an organization could easily evolve from an existing non-profit service oriented organization such as Tiffany, GGG/G, The Outreach Institute, or The IAMF. Each of these organizations are legal entities, service oriented, non-profit, and have the tools, the personnel, the objectives and the motivation. What we need is agreement that this is the direction we want to travel, and the agreement that we will work together.

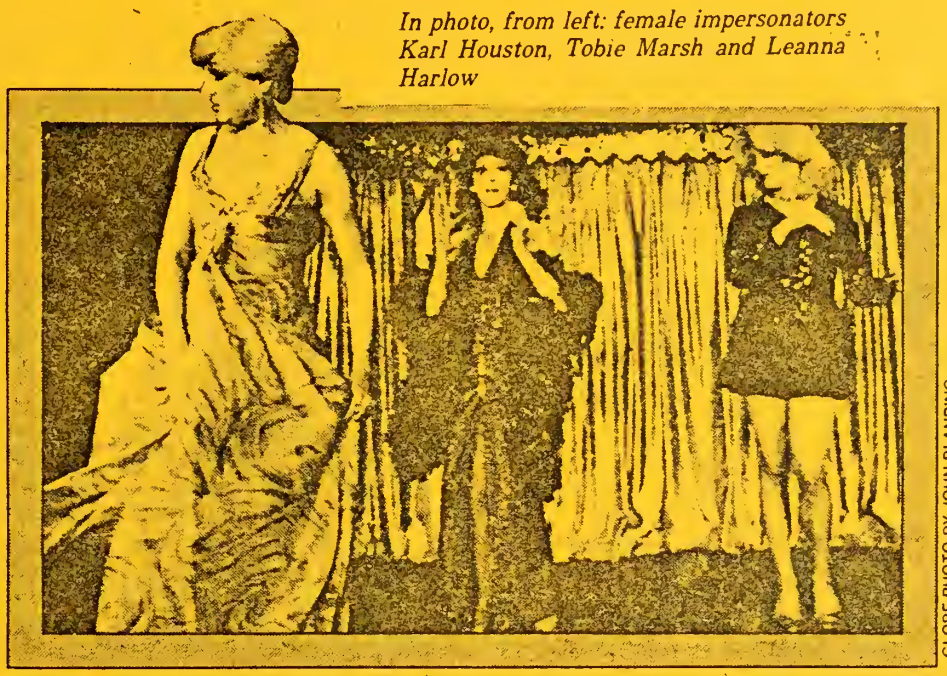
Merissa Sherrill Lynn

The Green Apple is one of the few lounges that welcome crossdressers, and the only lounge in the Boston area that features female impersonators 7 nights a week! Karl Houston, the MC of the nightly shows, is an artist, a friend of Tiffany, and a genuinely nice person. This article is reprinted from the Boston Globe.

LA CAGE AUX FRAUDS

By Steve Morse

In photo, from left: female impersonators Karl Houston, Tobie Marsh and Leanna Harlow



GLOBE PHOTO BY JOHN BLANDING

It was an eye-opening night in many ways, especially for the uninitiated. But if you had hang-ups when you went in, they weren't quite the same when you went out.

Movies about female impersonators have become surprisingly hot cult items around town. The semi-documentary "Outrageous" did a banner business in Cambridge, while the French morality farce, "La Cage aux Folles," is packing them in in Boston.

Comparatively few people, however, realize there is a local club featuring female impersonators on a nightly basis. It is the Green Apple on Rte. 1 northbound in Peabody (a block past the Holiday Inn), or as the proprietors are wont to call it — "Las Vegas on the North Shore."

The club is not the poshest oasis around — it's dark and fairly nondescript except for the Eve-like naked figurines on the tables — but the shows are invariably professional and you do not have to fear that you're entering a den of iniquity. "A movie like 'Outrageous' gave more people enough nerve to come to a show like this," says Karl Houston, resident producer and emcee. "And they found out it was legitimate."

There are people, Houston says, however, who attend thinking "there will be funny little men running around to laugh *at* and not *with*." Instead they find at both nightly shows (9:30 p.m. and 12:10 a.m.) the amalgam of a burlesque-vaudeville-nightclub revue, complete with dancers, comedians, skits and production numbers.

Another frequent misconception is that the Green Apple is the nocturnal haunt of only gays. Not so. Heterosexual couples dominate the audiences (although the clientele is mostly women on Monday nights when the show is augmented by several male G-string's-the-limit strippers). Besides, club manager Bob Leoni, who looks as if he'd be comfortable cradling a beer in the Patriots' end zone, emphasizes: "Hey, I'm straight. It doesn't matter whether you're straight or gay."

Many contemporary gays, in fact, dislike female impersonators. Houston replies angrily: "Most gays find us to be low on the totem pole, but they don't realize we were the first a long time ago to openly say we were gay. To put on a dress and run on stage takes a lot of guts, more so than having a mustache and coming out of the closet for a gay rights march."

Houston, who has been in the business 20 years ("a long time to keep your sanity"), is a talented comic whose stage attire for the current "Broads & Frauds" show (the show changes every four weeks) consists alternately of a silver gown, feather boa, blinding red and leopard-spotted dresses and a Mary Martin sailor's suit out of "South Pacific." With his ruler-length cigarette holder, he glides around the stage, cracking perversely funny though X-rated one-liners.

Houston also tries to ease the audience's possible fear of his homosexuality by confronting it straightaway. Borrowing a cigarette and a light from a customer, he says with a French accent, "Careful how you light it or there'll be a new item on the menu called 'faggot flambeaux.'" He may even — if a patron looks particularly dazed by his feminine dress and makeup — pull out a falsie and hand it to the patron with a hearty laugh.

Because this is not a big-budget evening (there's not even a cover charge weekdays), many of the show's numbers are taped and the performers merely lip-synch along. Still, the results are often quite amusing. At a recent show, China, one of five performers for the evening, did peppery Liza Minelli and Gilda Radner impersonations; Leanna Harlow was convincing as Bette Midler; and Tobie Marsh did some belly dancing and a crafty Lily Tomlin-like bit about waiting at home for

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Steve Morse is a pop music writer for The Globe.

LA CAGE AUX FRAUD

Continued from Page 5

a lover's phone call (as Vicki Carr's "It Must be Him" played over the tape). Brett Shepherd, who played the requisite "gentleman" lead — such shows traditionally have an overt male for production numbers — added a strange King Kong skit ("Jungle Boogie") and a modified striptease while women in the audience either giggled, stared in shock or demurely buried their heads in their hands.

It was an eye-opening night in many ways, especially for the uninitiated. But if you had hang-ups when you went in, they weren't quite the same when you went out. As Houston said, "I was liberated a long time ago. Liberation is in your head. I have many, many friends and we don't even have to discuss sexual preference."□

Liz DuBois is a wise lady and a good friend. What she says about the CBS program on the Gay community is completely true, not only for gays, but for people who crossdress. The propaganda the public gets about gays and TVs is often a deliberate, often sensationalized, distortion of the truth. I love her concluding sentance. All we need do is emphasize 'halloween drag' and replace the word 'homosexuals' with the word 'crossdressing', and Liz has struck a dissenting voice for us all.

A slanted program on homosexuals

The April 26 program on CBS-TV, "Gay Power — Gay Politics," was so slanted that it should have everybody thinking.

Other than Diane Finestein, mayor of San Francisco, where were the women? Where were the majority of gays who don't have sex in the park or frequent torture chambers? For that matter, where were the gays who do not live on or near Castro street in San Francisco?

How many large city parks are actually safe for children to walk through — or adults, for that matter? Furthermore, the children and parents interviewed were not molested or even threatened by homosexuals in the park in San Francisco. Several gay men of my acquaintance and many heterosexual and lesbian women to whom I have spoken have been accosted, beaten up, robbed or raped by heterosexual men in public parks in large cities across the United States, but I have never spoken with a man, woman or child who has been attacked by a homosexual man or woman in a public park. While I do not condone sex in a public place, I think the emphasis in the CBS broadcast was ridiculous.

Concentrating exclusively on men, sado-masochism, Halloween drag balls, sleazy bars and the cruisiest street (all four blocks worth, by the way) in the nation as if these aspects of the gay life were representative of all homosexuals would be like saying that Jonestown was representative of Christianity.

ELIZABETH DuBOIS
Cambridge

MONTHLY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE DELTA OMEGA ALPHA GROUP (D.O.A.***)

As most of our members know, our house of good fame fell down, the termites completely devouring the beams. We wish to thank Merissa Sherrill Lynn and her associates for allowing us the use of their facilities for our April 19th. meeting. Merissa was kind enough to overlook the fire set by one of the members in the bathroom. There's a better way of drying your nails than by setting fire to the toilet tissue.

We have written "Jimmy" asking permission to hold our next meeting in the Oval Office but, as yet no confirmation. Our offer of Honorary Membership to The Supreme Court was rejected five to four. (It appears we have friends in high places. The July meeting will be held in the Astrodome, so let's all get off our astros and be there.

Present at the last meeting were:- Helen Highwater; Dinah Myte; Millie Meter; Polly Wannacracker; Polly Ester;"Kitten" Kaboodle; Katherine LaGrate;Peg Legg; Alice Bluegown; Terri Towell; Kandy Kane; Cherie Pye; Olive Drabb; Regina Vagina; "Happy" Hooker; Ima Hoare and Kitty Litter.

Again, our collective thanks and appreciation to The Tiffany Club.

*** (Dead On Arrival)

Fraternally,

Deedle Dee Dumm, Pres.

- COMING EVENTS -

TIFFANY CLUB 617-891-8022
OPEN MEETINGS 7-11pm Tues. and Sat. Quiet and relaxed evenings among friends. Help with make-up and comportment upon request. BYOB BYOF FEES: Guests $6 per visit, Special members $5 per visit, Guest members and General members and Keyholders, no charge.
SATURDAY May 24 8pm Undercoverwear Lingerie Party. Carolyn will be bringing a number of items from her inventory, so this evening is going to be quite an evening. Don't miss it.
TUESDAY May 27 9pm Kim Williams will be our guest for the evening. Kim is a registered electrologist.
SATURDAY June 7 8pm Mary Kay Skin Care and Glamour demonstration.
SATURDAY June 14 8pm Inga returns. This time Inga is going to concentrate on her specialty, which is hair.
SATURDAY June 21 7pm Party! This party has evolved into a joint effort by Tiffany and Mayflower, and will be held in a townhouse in Boston. Should be our best party yet. For information contact Merissa or Kay.

THE KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY 617-891-8022 ask for Kay
OPEN MEETINGS: Every Wednesday from 7 to 11pm
PARTY: Last Saturday of every month.

THE OPEN DOOR 617-661-3855 c/o Marie Berard
FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH Transsexual support group meeting. Locations change, so be sure to check before attending.
FOURTH TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH TV/TS open meeting. Rap sessions open to all interested persons. Held at 739 Boylston St. Boston, but location subject to change, so check first.

HARTFORD TVIC Meetings every second Saturday. For information: Patsy Marie Pichon, Box 180, West Hartford, Ct. 06107

XX Club of Hartford Transsexual support. Meetings second Saturday. For information: Rev. Clinton R. Jones, George W. Henry Foundation, 45 Church St. Hartford, Ct. 06103

JOYCE DEWHURST Monthly parties 212545-4073
SATURDAY June 14 1980 Debutante Party. Party for novice TVs who will be attending their first function in drag.

ALBANY TVIC Meetings every third Saturday. For information: William Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany NY 12200
SATURDAY May 17 May's meeting of TVIC will be hosted by Michelle Ann Bobis at her home in Somerville, Mass.

OUTREACH INSTITUTE Box 368 Kenmore Sta., Boston Ma. 02215 617-277-3454
FALL FANTASIA FAIR Friday October 17 through Sunday October 26. FF is perhaps the finest TV function in the world. A TV tradition. Applications are available through Outreach and the Tiffany Club.
SHANGRI LA Annual springtime TV event held in Gulfport, Miss. For information: Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine, Ca. 92664

DREAM Annual TV event held near Seattle, Wash. Contact DREAM, Box 58 507 3rd Ave., Seattle Wash. 98104 This year's event Sept. 20-24

GREEN APPLE LOUNGE Rt 1, Peabody Mass. 617-535-9840 Featuring New England's finest female impersonators 7 nights a week, 2 shows nightly. Karl Houston MC (It is requested that persons crossdressed use the restroom appropriate to their sex. Karl has to use the men's room too.)

- BULLETIN BOARD -

DEBUTANTE PARTY

On Saturday, June 14, 1980, Joyce Dewhurst is sponsoring a coming out party for novice TVs. Of course, more experienced girls will be on hand to give encouragement and support.

Contact: Joyce Dewhurst, Box 1105, Woodside, NY 11377 212-545-4073

The party will be held in a beautiful cocktail lounge in Woodside Queens, just 12 minutes from downtown Manhattan.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

The Tiffany Club conducts Board of Directors meetings at 8pm the fourth Thursday of each month (the next meeting being May 22). These meetings are open business meetings, and all Tiffany members interested in being active and supportive members are encouraged to attend.

MARY KAY DEMO

Betty, Tiffany's Mary Kay rep will be here Saturday June 7 to give a skin care and cosmetics demo. The demonstration is free, anything else is up to you. Betty will not be giving the facials or make anyone up. Rather, she will show you how to do that yourself.

(For those of you who don't know, Mary Kay is a fine line of skin care and cosmetic products. The advantage is quality, convenience, and personal attention.)

- FORUM -

SOLITARY JOY
by Alicia Lynn

Up before anyone
rising with the sun
quiet and careful
dressing to be done.
Now to be one!
Smooth fitting hose
(pleasure in those).
Reveling in how it feels
to be walking in high heels.
A bra lacy and white
makes you look just right.
Blue soft shirt,
silky flowered skirt.
Complete with attire
every feeling afire.
Supressing a shout
Alicia comes out.

(When I was very young I used to dream of a Drake's cupcake truck tipping over in my front yard. Then I graduated to a Hope Chest Lingerie truck. I identify with this cartoon.)

"Let me through. I'm a transvestite."

ON LOVE AND MARRIAGE

by Merissa Sherrill Lynn

DeeDee and Vi are married. At our April party we watched video tapes of DeeDee prancing around hapily, while listening to Vi laugh her boisterous infectious laugh. We were enjoying Vi's laugh as much as we were enjoying watching DeeDee, when DeeDee leaned over and said to me, "Now you know why I love her so." I would like to talk to you about how I felt about that comment.

I am a person that gets joy from other people's pleasure, and satisfaction from other people's peace of mind. That joy and sense of satisfaction are my rewards for serving thers, and ultimately my reason for working towards the success of Tiffany. In our club and among our friends we have many married couples. I have spent endless hours listening to troubled married persons, wives that can't cope, dispairing husbands, their sadness and pain, and their fear. I would give most anything to help these people succeed, to actually achieve happiness and love for and with each other. Listening to Vi's laugh, and to DeeDee confiding to me her love for Vi gave me such a warm feeling I nearly cried. I feel good even now. The way DeeDee and Vi were feeling about each other at that moment is the way I wish all couples could feel about each other. That to me is a successful marriage.

DeeDee & Merissa
good friends

A tv I know named Merissa
Remarking re thatta and thissa,
Said,"There never will be
Another Dee Dee.
The least to be said, she's a pissa."

Love
Dee Dee & Ri